

**PATENT**  
Docket: 000063

Appl. No. 09/971,903  
Amdt. dated 2/2/05  
Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2004

### Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-16 and 18-41 were pending in the application. Claims 15-16, 18-24, 26-37 and 40-41 have been canceled. New claims 42-45 have been added. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-14, 25, and 38-39.

#### *Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)*

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. Pub. No. 2002/0024992 in view of Hutchison US Patent 5,790,589. Claim 15 has been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 26, 30-32, 36-37 and 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. Pub. No. 2002/0024992 in view of Easton US Patent 5,764,687. Claims 26, 30-32, 36-37 and 40-41 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 27 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. Pub. No. 2002/0024992 in view of Easton US Patent 5,764,687 in further view of Hutchison US Patent 5,790,589. Claims 27 and 33 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruner et al US Patent 6,567,462 in view of Hutchison US Patent 5,790,589. Claims 16 and 18-24 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 28-29 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. Pub. No. 2002/0024992 in view of Easton US Patent 5,764,687 in further view of Van Stralen U.S. Patent 6,621,855. Claims 28-29 and 34-35 have been canceled.

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*Newly Added Claims*

New claims 42-45 have been added. Claims 42 and 45 are similar to allowed claim 1, but written in different forms. Claims 43 and 44 are similar to allowed claims 3 and 5 respectively and are also written in a different form. It is believed these claims are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if a telephone call could help solve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/2/05

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